

a mesh portion, coupled to the sheath, the mesh portion having first and second longitudinal ends and an intermediate portion longitudinally between the first and second ends, and being movable between a retracted position and an expanded position, the intermediate portion being displaced radially outwardly relative to the first and second longitudinal ends when the mesh portion is in the expanded position;

an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to at least one of the mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the mesh portion between the retracted position and the expanded position;

introducing the sheath and the mesh portion into the body tract, the mesh portion being in the retracted position during introduction;

forming an object supporting surface by moving the elongate member relative to the sheath so the mesh portion expands; and

supporting the object with the object supporting surface allowing access to a majority of a surface of the object, from an interior of the body tract, while substantially immobilizing the object.

24. The method of Claim 23 wherein providing a catheter comprises:

providing a handle connected to the sheath; and

providing a handle connected to the elongate member.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein forming the object supporting surface comprises:

forming a substantially concave-shaped object supporting surface relative to the sheath.

26. The method of Claim 23 wherein forming the object supporting surface comprises:

forming a substantially convex-shaped object supporting surface relative to the sheath.

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27. The method of Claim 23 wherein the catheter includes two mesh portions operably connected to the sheath, and wherein forming an object supporting surface comprises:
- forming a first object supporting surface with the first mesh portion; and
- forming a second object supporting surface with the second mesh portion, the second object supporting surface generally opposing the first object supporting surface.
28. The method of Claim 23 wherein the object is a stone, and further comprising:
- breaking the stone into pieces; and
- using the mesh portion to filter the pieces in the body tract.
29. The method of Claim 28 and further comprising:
- sweeping the body tract with the mesh portion to clear the stone pieces from the body tract.
30. The method of Claim 23 wherein providing a catheter having a mesh portion comprises:
- providing a catheter having a meshed portion formed of one of:
- a mesh net;
- braided fibers or wires;
- spirally arranged wires or fibers;
- woven fibers or wires; and
- axially arranged fibers or wires.
31. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:
- a sheath having a wall, the sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;
- a mesh secured to the sheath by having a secured portion of the mesh embedded in the wall of the sheath throughout substantially the entire length of the sheath, the mesh having a first mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position; and
- an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the first mesh portion between the expanded position and the retracted position.

32. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:
a sheath having a wall, the sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;
a mesh secured to the sheath by having a secured portion of the mesh embedded in the wall of the sheath, the mesh having a first mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position; and
an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of the first mesh portion between the expanded position and the retracted position, wherein the mesh includes a second mesh portion movable between a retracted position and an expanded position.
33. A catheter for treating an object in a body tract, comprising:
a sheath defining a lumen therethrough and having a first end and a second end;
a first mesh portion coupled to the sheath and movable between a retracted position and an expanded position;
a second mesh portion coupled to the sheath nearer the first end than the first mesh portion and moveable between a retracted position and an expanded position, the first and second mesh portions each forming an object supporting surface when in the expanded position; and
an elongate member disposed in the lumen and operably attached to one of the first mesh portion, the second mesh portion and the sheath such that axial movement of the elongate member within the lumen causes movement of at least one of the first and second mesh portions between the expanded position and the retracted position.
34. The catheter of Claim 33 wherein each of the first and second mesh portions comprise one of:
a mesh net;
woven fibers or wires;
braided fibers or wires;
spirally arranged fibers or wires; and
axially arranged fibers or wires.

35. The catheter of Claim 33 wherein the axial movement of the elongate member causes movement of both the first and second mesh portions between the expanded position and the retracted portion.

36. The catheter of Claim 33 and further comprising:

an axial spacer spacing the first and second mesh portions.

37. The catheter of Claim 33 wherein, when in the expanded position, the first and second mesh portions form generally opposing object supporting surfaces.

38. The catheter of Claim 33 wherein the first and second mesh portions are independently expandable.

39. An expandable device, comprising:

a first sheath defining a first lumen;

a second sheath defining a second lumen, the second sheath being axially moveable within the lumen of the first sheath;

an expandable element coupled to the second sheath and being movable between a retracted position and a radially expanded position;

an elongate member operably attached to one of the second sheath and the expandable element and extending through the second lumen such that axial movement of the elongate member relative to the second sheath causes the expandable element to expand; and

wherein the first sheath is axially moveable relative to the second sheath to coaxially overlie a selected portion of the expandable element to selectively control an outer peripheral dimension of the expandable element when in the expanded position.

40. The expandable device of Claim 39 and further comprising:

a first handle coupled to a proximal region of the first sheath;

a second handle coupled to a proximal region of the second sheath; and

a third handle coupled to a proximal region of the elongate member.

41. The expandable device of Claim 39 wherein the first sheath is short relative to the second sheath and located closely proximate the expandable element.

42. A method of treating a stone in a body tract, comprising:

providing a catheter comprising: